

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 4, 2008. In view of the amendments and the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Claims 1-7, 9-11, and 21-31

Claims 1- 7, 9-11 and 21-31 stand rejected as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,838,121 issued November 17, 1998 to *Fairbairn, et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "*Fairbairn*") and United States Patent No. 5,838,681 issued January 5, 1999 to *Maydan, et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "*Maydan*"). The Applicants respectfully submit that the Petition filed to claim benefit of an effective filing date of November 18, 1996 has been granted on January 29, 2008. Accordingly, the present application now claims benefit of the November 18, 1996 effective filing date as a continuation of United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/751,524, now Patent No. 6,152,070.

Fairbairn and *Maydan* both have an effective filing date of November 18, 1996, which does not predate the effective filing date of the present application. Thus, *Fairbairn* and *Maydan* do not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, claims 1- 7, 9-11 and 21-31 are patentable over *Fairbairn* and *Maydan*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Claims 1, 3, 21, 27 and 29-31

Claims 1, 3, 21, 27 and 29-31 stand rejected as being unpatentable over JP 07-321178 to *Akio* (hereinafter referred to as "*Akio*"). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claims 1 and 21 recite elements not taught or suggested by *Akio*. *Akio* teaches a processing chamber 11 having two processing regions 41a, 41b divided by a partition member 44. A gate valve 15 is formed on one side of the processing chamber 11 to facilitate transfer of substrate. However, *Akio* is silent regarding how the gases are configured to supply to a processing chamber. More specifically, *Akio* does not teach or suggest a first gas distribution assembly positioned above a first processing

region and a second gas distribution assembly positioned above a second processing region, as recited by claim 1; or a first gas distribution assembly positioned above the bottom member and defining an upper boundary of the first annular processing region, and a second gas distribution assembly positioned above the bottom member and defining an upper boundary of the second annular processing region, as recited by claim 21.

“Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.” *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984)(citing *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 220 USPQ 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Here, as *Akio* does not teach or suggest a first gas distribution assembly positioned above a first processing region and a second gas distribution assembly positioned above a second processing region, as recited by claim 1; or a first gas distribution assembly positioned above the bottom member and defining an upper boundary of the first annular processing region, and a second gas distribution assembly positioned above the bottom member and defining an upper boundary of the second annular processing region, as recited by claim 21, *Akio* fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention recited by independent claims 1 and 21, and thus, a *prima facie* case of anticipation is not established.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 21, and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over *Akio*. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Claims 1, 10-11, 21, 24-25 and 27

Claims 1, 10-11, 21, 24-25 and 27 stand rejected as being unpatentable over JP 07-86188 to *JP-188*’ (hereinafter referred to as “*JP-188*”). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claims 1 and 21 recite elements not taught or suggested by *JP-188*’. The Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 4 as cited by the Examiner is a loadlock chamber 12, 13 utilized to transfer substrate to processing chambers 1, 2, 3 of Figure 1.

Each loadlock chamber 12, 13 has a loadlock substrate support 52 having two or more slots to hold processed and unprocessed substrate in and out of the processing system. The loadlock chambers 12, 13 are two separate individual chambers. According, each individual loadlock chamber 12, 13 does not have two processing regions. Moreover, each loadlock chamber 12, 13 has a first substrate transfer port formed in a first side of the chamber connecting to a first transfer chamber 16 and a second substrate transfer port formed in a second side of the chamber connecting to a second transfer chamber 4. The loadlock chamber *JP-188'* does not have a single substrate transfer port formed through an outer sidewall of a chamber body. Therefore, *JP-188'* does not teach or suggest a chamber body having a bottom, an outer sidewall and an interior sidewall, and first and second processing regions defined in the chamber body and bound by the interior sidewall, the outer sidewall, and the bottom and a single substrate transfer port formed through the outer sidewall of the chamber body, as recited by claim 1; or a first and second annular processing regions defined in a chamber body and bound by a common interior wall and a bottom member, and a single substrate transfer port formed in each of the processing region through an outer sidewall of the chamber body, as recited by claim 21.

"Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim." *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984)(citing *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 220 USPQ 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Here, as *JP-188'* does not teach or suggest a chamber body having two processing regions or a single substrate transfer port formed through an outer sidewall of a chamber body, *JP-188'* fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention recited by independent claims 1 and 21, and thus, a *prima facie* case of anticipation is not established.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 21, and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over *JP-188'*. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 21-26 and 28

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 21-26 and 28 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *JP-188'* in view of *Fairbarn* and further in view of *Maydan*. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claims 1 and 21 recite elements not taught or suggested by the combination of *JP-188'*, *Fairbarn* and *Maydan*. The patentability of claims 1 and 21 over *JP-188'* has been discussed above. As discussed, *Fairbarn* and *Maydan* do not qualify as prior art references. Accordingly, *JP-188'* does not teach or suggest a chamber body having a bottom, an outer sidewall and an interior sidewall, and first and second processing regions defined in the chamber body and bound by the interior sidewall, the outer sidewall, and the bottom and a single substrate transfer port formed through the outer sidewall of the chamber body, as recited by claim 1; or a first and second annular processing regions defined in a chamber body and bound by a common interior wall and a bottom member, and a single substrate transfer port formed in each of the processing region through an outer sidewall of the chamber body, as recited by claim 21.

Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion cited that would suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of *JP-188'* in a manner that would yield a chamber body having a bottom, an outer sidewall and an interior sidewall, and first and second processing regions defined in the chamber body and bound by the interior sidewall, the outer sidewall, and the bottom and a single substrate transfer port formed through the outer sidewall of the chamber body, as recited by claim 1; or a first and second annular processing regions defined in a chamber body and bound by a common interior wall and a bottom member, and a single substrate transfer port formed in each of the processing region through an outer sidewall of the chamber body, as recited by claim 21. Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of anticipation is not established as the reference fails to teach each claimed element.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 21, and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over *JP-188'*, *Fairbarn* and *Maydan*. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

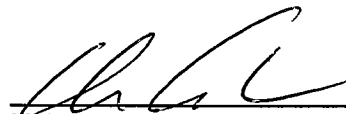
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance.

If the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

April 16, 2008



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